

James I. Palmer Jr., Esq.  
Regional Administrator  
Region 4, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
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December 17, 2001

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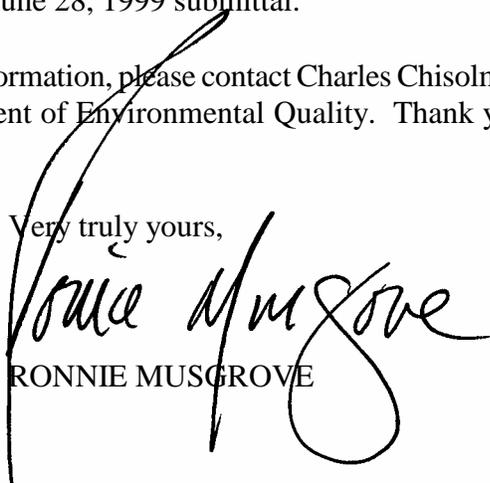
Dear Mr. Palmer:

On March 3, 1998, Governor Kirk Fordice forwarded the State of Mississippi's application for authorization of the Lead-Based Paint Activities Training and Certification Program (Lead Program) to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4. By letter dated June 28, 1999, Governor Fordice withdrew the request for final approval of the lead program and requested that EPA treat the March 3, 1998 application as the State's submittal for interim approval of the Lead Program. By letter dated July 26, 1999, EPA granted interim approval of the State's Lead Program effective for three years beginning June 28, 1999. Copies of the State's March 3, 1998 and June 28, 1999 correspondence are attached. I have also enclosed EPA's approval letter dated July 26, 1999. The State has been working with EPA over the past two and one-half years to address outstanding issues posed by the State's environmental self-evaluation report privilege law. The State will continue to work with EPA to address these and any other outstanding issues.

Interim approval of the State's Lead Program will expire on June 28, 2002. Since federal regulations provide EPA 180 days to make a decision on program authorization, the State must submit its request for final approval by December 28, 2001 in order for EPA to make a decision prior to June 28, 2002 (the date the State's interim approval expires). Please accept this letter and our previous submittals dated March 3, 1998 and June 28, 1999 as the State's request for final approval of our Lead Program. I have attached a copy of the application submitted on June 28, 1999 and replacement pages which reflect any changes since the June 28, 1999 submittal.

Should you require further information, please contact Charles Chisolm, Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

  
RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:mtb:sed